FOIAb3a
Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RD

UNITED PRESS
INTERNATIONAL
UPI-108

10 OCTOBER 1963

(UPI-CIA)

CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON--CIA DIRECTOR JOHN A. MCCONE DEFENDED HIS FAR-FLUNG AGENCY OPERATIONS FOR THREE AND ONE-HALF HOURS TODAY IN A CLOSED DOOR SESSION THAT LEFT MANY SENATORS CONVINCED THAT RECENT CRITICISM OF THE AGENCY WAS UNJUSTIFIED.

CHAIRMAN J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHICH MET WITH MCCONE, SAID HE FELT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS BEEN "UNFAIRLY CRITICIZED IN SOME PRESS REPORTS" AND SAID HE FOUND NO GROUNDS TO SUPPORT CHARGES THAT THE AGENCY HAS BEEN STRAYING INTO POLICY-MAKING FIELDS.

"I DON'T THINK THESE CRITICISMS ARE JUSTIFIED," FULBRIGHT TOLD REPORTERS.

SIMILAR OPINIONS WERE VOICED BY SEN. BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, R-IOWA, THE COMMITTEE'S TOP REPUBLICAN, AND SENS. STUART SYMINGTON, D-MO., AND JOHN J. SPARKMAN, D-ALA.

SYMINGTON PROPOSED THAT "SANITIZED" TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEETING BE MADE PUBLIC AFTER IT IS CENSORED FOR SECURITY INFORMATION. BUT THE COMMITTEE TOOK NO ACTION.

FULBRIGHT SAID HE LOOKED "WITH A VERY DIM VIEW" ON THE IDEA BUT SAID HE WOULD LET THE COMMITTEE DECIDE LATER.

EARLIER, THE CIA'S CHIEF IN SOUTH VIET NAM WAS DESCRIBED BY OTHER INFORMED OFFICIALS AS THE VICTIM OF "GUILT BY ASSOCIATION" WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM. THE AGENCY ALSO WAS DEFENDED YESTERDAY BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

MCCONE WOULD NOT DISCUSS HIS LONG SESSION WITH THE SENATORS.

FULBRIGHT SAID "SOME MISTAKES HAVE BEEN MADE" IN SOUTH VIET NAM BUT HE FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CIA ON THE SCENE WAS RESPONSIBLE. THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN CRITICAL OF THE AGENCY IN THE PAST AND ONCE SUPPORTED A BILL TO PUT IT UNDER THE EYE OF A CONGRESSIONAL WATCHDOG COMMITTEE.

HE SAID MANY STORIES FROM SOUTH VIET NAM CRITICAL OF CIA HAVE BEEN "GROSSLY EXAGGERATED."

SYMINGTON SAID HE RECOMMENDED THAT MCCONE'S TESTIMONY BE MADE PUBLIC BECAUSE "THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY ATTACKS ON THE CIA THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD GET A TRUE PICTURE" OF THE AGENCY.

10/10--EG236PED

Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000200410059-7